(v) The Ministry has framed a Model State Mineral Policy and circulated it to all State Governments on 12.10.2009 with the request to finalise and adopt a Mineral Policy as per their priority and requirements.

(vi) Procedures for revision under Section 30 of the MMDR Act, 1957 are being streamlined to reduce delays in disposal of revision applications.

(vii) All instances of corruption and illegal practices coming to notice are taken up with State Governments with utmost seriousness and followed up.

Hoda Committee recommendations

1935. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that amended Mines and Mineral (Development and Regulations) (MMDR) Act is in contravention of the recommendations of Hoda Committee;

(b) if so, the details of the contraventions, specifically for setting up of the Empowered Committee; and

(c) what is the status of implementation of the recommendations made by Hoda Committee for constituting the Empowered Committee comprising representatives from various Ministries/industries?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 has not been amended recently. It was last amended in 1999.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Based on the recommendations of the Hoda Committee, Government have announced the new National Mineral Policy, 2008. Separately, a Coordination-cum-Empowered Committee has been constituted in the Central Government on 4.3.2009 which includes representatives from Ministries of Mines, Environment and Forest, Defence, Home Affairs, Steel, Directorate General of Civil Aviation, Indian Bureau of Mines and Geological Survey of India. The first meeting of the Committee was held on 24.7.2009.

Corruption in allotment of mining rights

1936. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rampant corruption in allotting mining rights/licences for mining in mineral fields has come to light recently involving politicians; and

(b) if so, the details of steps proposed to be taken to make allotments of mining rights transparent and corruption free?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) Reports of this nature have recently come to the notice of the Ministry of Mines.